



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS
Washington, D.C. 20231
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/693,186	10/19/2000	Tan Thanh Dinh	ECV-5611	9184

7590

08/02/2002

Edwards Lifesciences LLC
Law Dept
One Edwards Way
Irvine, CA 92614

EXAMINER

WALLENHORST, MAUREEN

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1743

DATE MAILED: 08/02/2002

7

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/693,186

Applicant(s)

DINH ET AL. *4*

Examiner

Maureen M. Wallenhorst

Art Unit

1743

-- Th MAILING DATE of this communication app ars on the cov r sheet with th correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-22 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8, 10-19, 21 and 22 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 9 and 20 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on ____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 4, 5.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other:

Art Unit: 1743

1. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 1-4, 6, 10-15, 17 and 21-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by White et al (WO 99/50655).

White et al teach of a method for separating target molecules such as an individual phospholipid from a mixture of phospholipids, that employs thin layer chromatography (TLC). In one embodiment of the method, phosphatidylinositol is separated from a mixture containing the phosphatidylinositol and phosphatidylcholine by first extracting the phospholipids into an extraction solvent containing methanol and chloroform. Spots of the extraction solvent containing the phospholipids are then applied to a TLC silica plate. One-dimensional thin layer chromatography is then performed by the elution of a solvent in one direction. The separated phospholipid can then be detected by staining the phospholipid with primulin and exposing it to ultraviolet light. See claims 8-10 and 26 in White et al.

Art Unit: 1743

4. Claims 1-6 and 12-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Korte et al. (submitted in the Information Disclosure Statement filed on June 22, 2001).

Korte et al teach of a method for one-dimensional thin layer chromatography to separate phospholipids. In the method, a mixture of phospholipids such as phosphatidylcholine, phosphatidylethanolamine and phosphatidylinositol are extracted into a 2:1 extraction solvent of chloroform and methanol. The extraction solvent containing the phospholipids is then spotted onto a silica TLC plate, and placed into an elution solvent mixture. The TLC plate is developed in one direction, which allows for the separation of the phospholipids. The separated phospholipids are then visualized and detected. See pages 48-49 in Korte et al.

5. Claims 1-6 and 12-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Entezami et al. (submitted in the Information Disclosure Statement filed June 22, 2001).

Entezami et al teach of a method for the analysis and separation of phospholipids by thin layer chromatography (TLC). In the method, a mixture of standard phospholipids such as sphingomyelin, phosphatidylcholine, phosphatidylethanolamine, etc are extracted into a volume of 2:1 chloroform and methanol. Spots of the extraction solvent containing the phospholipids are applied to a silica TLC plate, and then the plates are chromatographed in one direction in a TLC tank containing an elution solvent. Following development of the chromatogram, the individual phospholipids are scanned and detected. See pages 325-326 of Entezami et al.

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

8. Claims 7-8 and 18-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over any one of White et al, Korte et al or Entezami et al in view of Schmitz et al (submitted in the Information Disclosure Statement filed on June 22, 2001). For a teaching of White et al, Korte et al and Entezami et al, see previous paragraphs in this Office action. Each of White et al, Korte et al and Entezami et al fail to teach that the elution solvent in the method for performing TLC contains chloroform, methanol, acetic acid and an aqueous solution of potassium chloride.

Schmitz et al teach of a method for the one-dimensional separation of phospholipids by thin layer chromatography (TLC). A mixture of phospholipids such as sphingomyelin, phosphatidylcholine and phosphatidylethanolamine are applied to a TLC plate, and separated in a one-step procedure using an elution solvent containing acetic acid, chloroform, methanol and potassium chloride in distilled water. See page 67 of Schmitz et al.

Based upon a combination of any one of White et al, Korte et al or Entezami et al with Schmitz et al, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the instant invention to use the elution solvent containing chloroform, methanol, acetic acid and potassium chloride taught by Schmitz et al as the elution solvent in the TLC methods disclosed by White et al, Korte et al and Entezami et al since Schmitz et al teach that such an elution

Art Unit: 1743

solvent in a TLC method serves to effectively separate several different types of phospholipids, which is the purpose of the methods taught by the primary references to White et al, Korte et al and Entezami et al., and is equivalent in function to the elution solvents disclosed in these primary references.

9. Claims 9 and 20 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims since none of the prior art of record teaches or fairly suggests a method for separating phospholipids by one-dimensional thin layer chromatography, wherein the elution solvent in the method consists essentially of 35 parts chloroform, 10 parts methanol, 9.8 parts acetic acid and 1.2 parts of an aqueous solution of potassium chloride.

Art Unit: 1743

10. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Maureen M. Wallenhorst whose telephone number is 703-308-3912. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Wednesday from 6:30 AM to 4:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jill Warden, can be reached on (703) 308-4037. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9310.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-0661.

Maureen M. Wallenhorst
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1743

mmw

July 31, 2002

Maureen M. Wallenhorst
MAUREEN M. WALLENHORST
PRIMARY EXAMINER
GROUP 1200 1700